

Prayer of Dedication for the
Franklin S. Harris Fine Arts Center
by Joseph Fielding Smith

Our Father in Heaven, we are assembled here for the purpose of dedicating the Franklin S. Harris Fine Arts Center. This structure bespeaks the beauty, dignity and function of a University dedicated to and appreciative of the fine and performing arts. Provision has been made that in this building students and faculty produce, create, exhibit and perform works which bring lasting inspiration to thousands. Skilled and faithful teachers will be provided so that all that is done by way of activity will be conducted under proper direction. The faculty and academic programs train and teach the future leaders of the Church to recognize and understand the arts and their place in the abundant life.

The day will begin with humble prayer and it is the intention that what ever is done will be done in the spirit of prayer and obedience to Thy commandments.

We ask that no unclean thing may enter here but that the spirit of peace, fellowship and faithful obedience to Thy divine will and commandments may permeate this building and that all who assemble for developing their talents may be impressed with the fact that Thy Spirit is here, and so we pray that no unclean influence may be permitted to disturb the peace, tranquility or cleanliness of this edifice.

Our Father, we pray that the influence of Thy Holy Spirit is here, and so we pray that no unclean influence may be permitted to disturb the peace, tranquility or cleanliness of this edifice.

Our Father, we pray that the influence of Thy Holy Spirit may always be felt here and that the activities performed here in this building will leave an impression to cause those who take part to seek for righteousness.

We ask Thee to bless and protect this building from the ravages of storms, floods, fire, earthquakes or any other destructive conditions or elements. May all who assemble here, feel that they are in a house dedicated to the Lord. Therefore we pray that no unclean person may enter here, but all who come may keep the commandments of the Lord.

We ask Thee to bless this building that its foundations may be strong and capable of carrying the load that is resting upon them. Bless the building in all of its rooms its theaters, its recital hall, laboratory and studio rooms; and all others for the building up of fine arts, and indicative of the multiple use made of this building, one Stake and ten wards also currently meet in the center. Moreover, we pray that all who come may feel that the spirit of the Lord is here, whether it be in the field of art, drama, music or in the gatherings which will come for religious purposes.

Bless its ceilings and roof, its walls, partitions, that they may be strong and protected from adverse conditions and elements.

May Thy Holy Spirit guide those who are appointed to direct, teach or otherwise instruct, may they have health and strength and wisdom, and may harmony peace, and righteousness constantly prevail that those who participate may feel the influence of Thy Holy Spirit. The new Center makes available to students greatly increased opportunity and motivation to create, appreciate, understand, perform and communicate the fine arts; may they appreciate the gifts that our Father in heaven has given them.

We thank Thee our Father for this building; may we always keep it sweet and clean morally, physically, and spiritually and that the influence of Thy Holy Spirit may abide here.

We ask Thee humbly to accept our labors and Thy blessings be made manifest through all time, and may we be forgiven of our weaknesses, we humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ Thy Beloved Son. Amen.